



Office of Mayor Charlie Hales
City of Portland

May 18, 2016

Dear Chairman Karnofski, Commissioners Weber and Gardner, and Director Bellon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Millennium Bulk's proposed coal export terminal along the Columbia River. Attached please find City of Portland Resolution 37164, adopted in 2015, which details Portland's opposition to fossil fuel transportation projects within the City of Portland and adjacent waterways, including the Columbia River.

If built, the Longview terminal would export up to 44 million tons of coal each year to Asia and would be the biggest coal export terminal in North America. The proposed terminal is incompatible with actions being taken at the local, state, national and international levels to combat climate change. The Paris Climate Agreement, which was signed by every country represented at the 21st Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, aims to limit warming to 1.5° C above pre-industrialized levels, which demands that the global community move quickly from fossil fuels — especially coal — to clean, renewable energy. Additionally, President Obama's Clean Power Plan sends a clear signal that federal, state and local governments should pursue clean, renewable energy infrastructure rather than invest in the dirty fuels of the past. The proposed terminal runs counter to the carbon reduction goals of the State of Washington and the State of Oregon, which seek to decrease emissions by 50 percent (Washington) and 70 percent (Oregon) below 1990 levels by 2050. Locally, the City of Portland is striving to achieve 80 percent greenhouse gas emission reduction by 2050, in accordance with its 2015 Climate Action Plan. We can reach these goals, but only by saying "no" to projects like this.

The Washington Department of Ecology draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) confirms what the public has said for over six years: This project has significant and unavoidable impacts, from greenhouse gas emissions to traffic delays. The Department of Ecology acknowledges that moving over 44 million tons of coal in uncovered trains and stockpiles along the Columbia would harm people's health and harm the river.

These impacts extend beyond Washington's borders. For example: As much as one ton of coal dust can escape from each rail car in transit, leading to increased incidence of asthma attacks, pulmonary inflammation, bronchitis, emphysema, and cancer. Noise, diesel emissions and toxic coal dust from the increased rail traffic will negatively impact the livability of Portland and surrounding communities. Moreover, toxic pollutants from coal-fired energy plants in Asia rise in the winds and are carried in jet streams over the Pacific Ocean, resulting in increased air pollution in the Pacific Northwest.

Coal-fired power is among the dirtiest possible sources of energy, and contributes a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Oregon is moving aggressively away from coal-fired power, and we have no interest in simply redirecting that coal to be burned elsewhere. Transitioning from coal to cleaner sources of energy is critical to meeting our climate goals. The Pacific Northwest has strived to be a leader in developing and implementing clean energy technologies and practices, promoting sustainable economic development and creating clean-energy jobs. The proposed coal terminal undercuts those efforts.

Consistent with Resolution 37164, I, with the City of Portland, oppose the proposed Millennium Bulk coal export terminal, and urge you to deny their request for permits.

I strongly urge the Board of Commissioners to use this opportunity to move towards a healthier and cleaner future.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Hales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charlie" and last name "Hales" clearly distinguishable.

Charlie Hales
Mayor, City of Portland